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## OUR OMNIBUS.

## PIPER PAN.

The Royal College of Music is well managed, and has produced several excellent artists. The performance of Gluck's beautiful opera "Orpheus," given last Saturday at the Royal Lyceum Theatre (by kind permission of Mr. Henry Irving) was one of the best that I have seen and heard. The orchestra of forty-four performers, past and present students of the R.C.M., merited warm praise, and the same may be said of the chorus singers.

Orpheus was represented by Miss Clara Butt, who is gifted with a superb contralto voice, sang admirably, acted well, and I venture to say will soon reach a high position in the ranks of the Paris (Eurydice) and Cain (Eros) also acquitted themselves well, and this performance of "Orpheus" was warmly applauded by the crowded audience. Dr. Villiers Stanford conducted admirably, and praise is due to Mr. Richard Temple, the stage director, who, with Dr. Stanford, was called before the curtain and warmly applauded.

The opera season at Covent Garden has closed, but I have reason to believe that opera will occasionally be performed there during the winter season—probably at matinees.

Paderewski started for America on Wednesday last on board the Teutonic, and will not return to us until next May, when he will give some of his wonderful performances in the provinces and the metropolis. I have always admired Rubinstein, but find in Paderewski the equal of that great artist, so far as concerns executive skill, and his superior in expression.

I learn, on good authority, that Paderewski, during his recent short stay in England, cleared nearly £3,000. At his first appearance here, nearly three years ago, he took less than £10, and he has told me that he would have quitted England directly, but for the warm recommendation expressed by the "Globe" and two or three other journals.

It is not unlikely that Sir Arthur Sullivan's best opera will be adapted to a libretto by Mr. Gilbert, which has for some time past been in Sir Arthur's possession. I trust this will be the case, for I do not hesitate to say that none of the operas he has composed during the last two years has been equal in merit to those in which he had the co-operation of Mr. Gilbert.

It has sometimes been my welcome task to draw attention to the generosity of professional artists, and I have before me a striking illustration of this generosity—the programme of a concert given on the 8th inst., at St. James's Hall, in aid of a deserving charity. The list of artists included the sisters Ravogli, Mdlles. Macintyre, Padliker, and Brena, and Miss Mary Moore; Mr. Ben Davies, Bismah, Maybrick, and Henschel, and Mr. Charles Wyndham, &c. &c. I know that it would have cost over £200 to pay these artists their usual fees.

Herr Mühlfeld, the German clarinetist, will appear, for the last time this season, at the next Monday Popular Concert, and it is said that he will make a longer stay in England next year. I have felt it my duty to praise his clarinet playing, but I cannot accept him as a better artist than some English violinists whom I might name if space permitted.

M. Jacobi, whose inventive powers appear to be inexhaustible, has written some charming music for the new ballet, invented by Mr. John Hollingshead, which will be produced at the Alhambra on Monday next.

OLIA PODRIDA.—More than 300 ladies recently applied for the secretaryship of the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music.—The "Meister Singers" sang to the Queen a few days back.—In the Christmas number of the "Musical Times" Messrs. Novello furnish a copious and interesting history of Brethrenhood, with numerous illustrations.—Mr. George Grossmith's entertainments in America have been largely patronised.—Mr. Eugene Oudin will, at the end of January, give a vocal recital at St. James's Hall, without the aid of any other artist.—Dr. Mackenzie has completed the score of his forthcoming opera, "Bethlehem."—I am sorry to learn that the eminent pianist, Dr. Von Bulow, is suffering severely from influenza.—Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 17, by pupils of the Guildhall School of Music.—An excellent violin and pianoforte recital was given on Tuesday last, by Herr Fozzmanni and Miss Eva Lomax, who were assisted on Monday next gave his third and last recital at St. James's Hall.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

The frost on the wood pavement and asphalt has commenced its work of horse-killing for the winter. A bus conductor, the other day, was telling me of the sufferings of the poor animals in starting a fully laden omnibus. It is the starting that pulls them to pieces, quite apart from the falling about. Bearing this in mind, passengers do an act of mercy when they stop the car as little as possible on slippery days. By being willing to get out at the same time as some one else, and by walking, perhaps, a few yards extra, they will earn the gratitude of the horses and of the driver on their behalf. Wood and asphalt paving are delightful to passengers for their smoothness and noiselessness, but it must be remembered that they have their drawbacks, on an equine point of view. It is painful often to see the nervousness of a horse on a slippery day; he understands the danger every bit as well as his driver, and has an even keener personal interest in it.

Greatly obliged am I to a gentleman at Gibraltar for the following interesting incident. When fishing in the bay, in company with a friend, they used sardines as baits on their hand lines. All of a sudden, a large creature, which they supposed to be a fish, made straight for one bait, seized it, and swam away, carrying the line along. By this time, the fishers had discovered that the assailant was not a fish at all, but a black and white diver, and the line was jerked in the chance of catching the impudent bird. But he proved far too smart to be taken in and done for; having removed and gobbled one bait, he returned again and again to the feast so kindly spread for him below water, and every time he succeeded in dodging the hook.

"C. E. S." has a twelve months' old rabbit which was born without any ears, though the six others of the litter were all perfect. Such freaks are not very uncommon with rabbits, whose ears are especially liable to be in some way abnormal.

It is a standing puzzle to me why wealthy Englishmen do not keep private zoological gardens, as is the common practice among Eastern nobles. There are few native courts of any pretensions in India but have considerable menageries attached to them, as the necessary appendages of royalty. In an account of a recent auction at Calcutta, I read that the Maharajah of Mysore bid 1,500 rupees for a job lot comprising a zebra, its

case, and a monkey. The grandfather of the present young Duke of Marlborough had a great collection of wild animals at Blenheim, and also went to large expense on acclimatising experiments. He set an example which I should like to see followed by other English peers, especially by those to whom the spending of a few thousands per annum on a hobby is the merest bagatelle.

No doubt many of my readers have doubted the accuracy of the estimate that 75,000 elephants are annually slaughtered in Africa for the sake of their tusks. Fortunately, I am in a position to supply corroboration to some extent. There is a firm of cutlers at Sheffield that requires the ivory of 1,250 elephants for its own use every year. A few years ago, the quantity it took off the market was less by one third, a proof that the demand not only grows, but grows largely and quickly. If, then, nearly 1,250 elephants have to be annually destroyed to satisfy the requirements of an English firm, it does not appear at all out of the way that all the rest of the world should need sixty times as much.

Wild beasts and venomous snakes more than hold their own in India, it appears, as destroyers of human life. I see from the Government return just issued that 24,300 deaths were so caused during the past twelve months, as against 23,801 in the previous year. Curious to say, too, tigers and leopards took the largest share in increasing the total. One might have imagined that the large number of British sportsmen who go out to India every winter to kill big game would have thinned down these ferocious brutes. They also destroyed 54,000 head of cattle, a terrible loss to the poor ryots. I wonder whether those who hold that man has no right to kill the lower animals would have felt that principle applied in the case of savage wild beasts. If it were India, would soon have no other inhabitants.

Mr. Murgerside mentions that in 1887 when at Arundel, he was shown a large eel which had just been pulled dead out of the river there, with a big rat fixed firmly in its jaws. The theory was that the eel had found rat drowned, and had then choked when endeavouring to swallow it. It certainly was a bold attempt for an eel to make.

Talking of rats, "H. B." relates a good story he has read somewhere. The skipper of an American packet was plagued by rats, who could be banished in no manner. In the port in which he was lying, however, he encountered a British ship with a large consignment of cheese on board. Thinking that this was just the place for his stow-aways, he cast about for the means of getting into direct communication with her. His Yankee ingenuity soon framed a sufficient pretext; he hailed over to the Britisher and moored alongside. Then he smeared a plank with white wash, and prepared to step her in to load the rats in the right way, and put it as a gangway between the two vessels. The fishy smell attracted the rats sure enough, and then they got wind of the cheese, so that, we are assured, they migrated part and parcel from under the Stars and Stripes to the Union Jack. I cannot, of course, vouch for the authenticity of this story, but it is probable enough. Rats are very keen on the scent of food, and it is a well-known expedient of rat-catchers to lead them to their traps by some decoction of fish oil.

## THE ACTOR.

The ceremony of Monday last will no doubt have the effect of considerably advertising the Marylebone Theatre. There are very many people in London who do not know where that establishment is, and the 30th night of Mr. Toole's London. It is the most westerly of all our theatres, and yet more do West End theatre-goers, as a body, know of it. Only a few of the newspapers chronicle its doings, and it is, I believe, mainly devoted to melodrama.

Under Mr. Gascoigne's auspices, the Marylebone has been excellently conducted; but one would like to see it take a still higher position than it holds. The house might be encouraged to produce some original plays, which would draw the critics and first nighters, and do something to revive the old glories of the place. The stage is, I understand, exceptionally long, and great things might be done in the way of staging pieces.

On the night that the Marylebone was celebrating its jubilee, Mr. Toole was celebrating the 30th night of his play, "London." He did both by making a speech and by distributing a souvenir among the audience. The souvenir consisted of a nicely got up sort of pamphlet, gay with portraits of the comedian, and embracing an essay by Mr. G. A. Sala and extracts from Mr. Hatton's "Reminiscences of Mr. Toole."

Both of these might have been "edited" a little with advantage. They read a little out of date in parts. And more satisfactory than either would have been a compact little biography of Mr. Toole, giving facts and dates such as players like to possess and assimilate. But how difficult it is to induce an actor to give the dates of things! He loves to speak vaguely about time—as if by doing so he could make himself any younger.

At its two latest meetings the Players' Club has been employed in discussing the moral or immoral effects of the drama, whether upon public or upon players. Debates of this sort strike me as savouring of the impertinent and the unnecessary. Why should we discuss the morality of the actors, any more than about that of plumbers or cricketers, or sweeps? It is proverbially unfair to make comments upon the characteristics of particular classes.

If the profession of the stage presents temptations, so do other professions. Trade is by no means free from such. Look at all those calling in which there is a large employment of female labour. The special misfortune of the stage lies in the fact that it lives in the full light of publicity. Its devotees can do nothing without its becoming known to all the world. No such interest is taken in them that any laxity of which one of them may be guilty is at once thrust into exceptional prominence.

Nobody has any right to dictate to the Gaiety directors what they shall or shall not do; but it is permissible to regret that they should have decided to set aside the burlesque that was in preparation, and to put arrangement will be that if any people will be thrown out of employment at a most unfortunate time—not only actors and actresses, but many minor employes both in front and behind the curtain.

Besides, the assumption contained in the decision seems to be that burlesque is impossibly of Fred Leslie as anybody does, but he was not indispensable. The Gaiety directors—who, it is understood, have gone dead against the wishes and advice of Mr. George Edwards—could readily have got together a cast which could have held the field until Mr. Lonnien was brought back to the fold.

I shall watch with much curiosity the effect

of "The Lost Paradise" upon the Adelphi's patrons. I am told that the play is, in essence, a modern comedy, with a "situation" or two thrown in. Melodrama, I fear, will not. The "strike" business, I fear, will not. London players rather played out. We had it last at the Olympic, in a play produced by Mr. Wilson Barrett.

## OLD IZAAK.

The extremely variable weather still impedes angling, and renders prospects for the next few days very uncertain. As the time of writing, the Thames is fishable, although not in the condition that could be wished for; but few anglers have been out during the last week, and sport, as a rule, has been very poor.

At Sunbury, Messrs. Clarke and Son have taken a number of roach, dace, and perch, and Messrs. T. and A. Strong, roach and dace, at Kingston. J. Knight has taken roach, dace, and chub. Between these places the bank anglers have taken some roach and dace, but the fishing has nowhere been up to the usual standard, and in the tidal waters very little, indeed, has been done.

At Monkey Island a few good roach have been taken, but nothing else of note. The water was very thick in the early part of the week, and much depends on the subsequent weather as to what its condition may be when these lines are read. If the interval has been at all favourable the snow water will be gone, and there will be a chance of sport. Then, as "Bob Plummer" puts it, "chub for choice; pith and brains for bait."

There is scarcely anything to record from the Lea, the "snow broth" and general conditions apparently throwing the fish off the feed. A few bream and roach have been taken by the knowing ones from the Arun at Pulborough and Amberley, but the river more is thick and still in fact. From Fittleworth I hear the Boring is right for jack fishing, and two anglers caught half a dozen good fish there early in the week.

A prodigious number of sprats have recently been taken off Deal and Walmer, and in quantities of them have been turned at Deal, instead of being wasted or used as formerly for manure. The cod follow in the wake of the sprats, and some fine fish have been taken by the anglers during the past week, of which a sample or two have reached me.

Mr. Edgar S. Shrubsole ("Rod and Gun") reads a paper, entitled "An angling tour through the United Kingdom," before the Hattersea Friendly Angling Society, Queen's Hotel, Queen's-road, Hattersea, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1893. "Old Izaak" presides.

I am glad to report that the recent competition at Windsor will result in a substantial balance being handed over to the committee of the Anglers' Benevolent Society and Connaught House. Mr. B. Abrahams (hon. sec. of the competition) tells me some £25 has already been paid, and there is a prospect of more to follow.

The monthly delegate meeting of the Anglers' Association takes place on Monday, at the Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road. The chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

The recent banquet of the Thames Angling Preservation Society proved so successful, that I understand it will add about £70 to the society's funds. The money was greatly needed, and will be all the more welcome in consequence.

A correspondent writing from Carlow, Ireland, states that the River Barrow there is full of perch and roach, but thinks he "must be ignorant about the bait business," for he cannot find anything they will take. "I am asked to give him a wrinkle or two about it. Under ordinary conditions, perch will now be found in deep water, and a fine pattern baited with minnows, ought to prove enticing. When the water is thick, a leger, baited with a lobworm, is often successful; groundbaiting beforehand with chopped worms, of which a few may be thrown in at intervals when fishing.

Roach will also take a worm, especially in thick or muddy water, when the fish will frequently be found close to the bank, and in comparatively shallow spots. Pasty or gentles are the baits most commonly used when the water is tolerably clear, and the groundbait in that case should be a mixture of worm, soaked bread, and bran kneaded together, to which is added a little clay to make it sink. The swim may be ground-baited regularly a few days beforehand, but in all cases the ground bait should be similar to the bait intended to be used, and applied sparingly rather than otherwise. Boiled wheat, rice, or crust of bread might also be tried.

## GENERAL CHATTER, M.P.

It is not generally known that Coventry folks have exceptionally sensitive ears. A stranger visiting Lady Godiva's steeped city would scarcely believe that this could be the case; for its size, the town is considerably noisy. But the fact must be as I have stated, the police would not have received instructions to run in every noisemaker who calls his wares in the streets. In the first case of the sort which was brought before the magistrates the other day, they declined to convict, but only because it was the first case. I am entitled to assume, therefore, that all other creators of noise in the streets will come in for the same treatment as the unfortunate newsboys. And how about the church bells?

A new organisation has just been started at Liverpool which might be advantageously copied at many other English cities. It is entitled "The Brotherhood of Clean Lips," and the members undertake not only to abstain from obscene and blasphemous language themselves, but to do violence to call to spread that wholesome doctrine. More power to their elbows! When they have purged Liverpool from verbal beastliness, perhaps they will kindly lend London a few missionaries to preach the same gospel. It is a shameful and a scandalous thing that decent people cannot go about in the British metropolis without having their ears polluted by filthy talk.

It is a singular anomaly that while the Progressives members of the L.C.C. pose as the special champions of the working classes, they nevertheless postpone, on one pretext and other, many great improvements which would provide employment for thousands. The unemployed are practically told that they must run their chance of being starved until Parliament adopts "betterment" and sanctions the taxation of ground values. Truly do the Progressives bestow snakes on those who petition for relief. Better let us, far, they consider, the men, women, and children should die of hunger by the thousand than that they themselves should appear, even for a moment, to abandon their "principles."

The New Zealand Government has promoted four working men to the Legislative Council, which occupies the same exalted position in the local legislature as the House of Lords does in the Imperial Parliament. Practically, therefore, the quartette of horny-handed ones become peers, although they are only entitled to the designation of "honour-

able." To make up for that, however, each receives £150 per annum at the public expense, whereas our peers have to pay their way out of their own pockets. The chance of Mr. John Burns for a seat in the "gilded chamber" is decidedly looking up. What a shame that Mr. Cyril Flower should have been allowed to appropriate the title of Lord Battersea! That would have suited "Honest John" right down to the ground.

What would the national verdict be, I wonder, if a plebiscite were taken on the question as to whether voters should not be allowed to be conciliated by gratis entertainments? Of course, one hopes that virtue would win the day, hands down, but judging from some recent revelations, there seems to be a considerable number of electors who would not be greatly angered if the Corrupt Practices' Act were erased from the Statute Book. Not that many would go so far as to offer their suffrages to the highest bidder; that sort of thing is generally regarded as extremely reprehensible. But entertainments, viewed in a different light altogether, as an elector is no more bound—so runs the argument—to vote for the entertainer than a person is who dines with a Parliamentary candidate belonging to the opposite party.

Some interesting information reaches me respecting the late competitive examination for Eastern Cadets, that is, the Ceylon and Straits Civil Service. Although only two vacancies had to be filled, and although the examination is one of the very stiffest, seventy competitors entered the lists, among them being many university men. The winners proved to be two cousins named Kinderleigh, and the curious thing is that they came out with almost equal marks, and almost equal marks, although prepared by different grammars. It shows what the demand is for Government employ that seventy young men, very highly educated and of exceptional ability, should have run for a couple of berths in a service necessitating expatriation for the greater part of life amid insalubrious surroundings.

While on this subject, I will give a little information to the numerous quizzers who, from time to time, inquire about the conditions governing admission into the commissioned ranks of the Army. The first ordeal is the passing of a preliminary examination, about as hard as that for matriculation at the London University. This being accomplished, the candidate is sent to training for a whole week, which sits out about nine months of the competitors. The successful candidates then proceed to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where they remain for eighteen months, passing examinations at the end of each term, the final one being pretty stiff. Including the cost of training, and the charges at the Royal Military College, the total expense will run to about £250 or perhaps a bit more, over and above previous educational expenses. Then follows an outlay of, say, £200 on uniform and outfit, after which the glorified youth comes into possession of the splendid pay of 5s. 3d. per diem. The game hardly pays for the candle, I think.

The "Gentlewoman" deserves public thanks for taking up the cudgels against tight lacing. This odious practice is now carried to such an extreme that the lives of women, and the condition of physical torture. Their ribs are so compressed that the lungs and other organs are cruelly deprived of the space provided for them by nature, with the result that they cannot properly discharge their functions. Ill health follows, as a matter of course, and not a few deaths among fashionable young women may be traced to the fatal custom. To my mind, a cinched-in waist is nothing less than a deformity, just as ugly as round shoulders. But lovely woman has got it into her noddie that men admire an hour-glass figure, and she consequently sacrifices her health and comfort on the altar of her supposed bad taste.

## MADAME.

Evening gowns, composed entirely of velvet, are being largely adopted this winter by the ladies who have been accustomed to see the fabric worn in the evening by matrons or elderly ladies, girls using it plentifully as a trimming for morning gowns. Now, however, it is quite the thing for "sweet seventeen" to don an entire gown of velvet for an evening party, and a most becoming sight it is to old and young alike. Moreover, it has the advantage of being in vogue, its fresh materials from the beginning of the evening to the end, which some of our lovely transparent stuffs, alas, do not possess. Velvet is now made in the most delicate colourings, as well as rich dark tones; one of the new tints looks lovely at night; it is a kind of reddish heliotrope.

At a big "evening at home" last Tuesday, a brunette of 18 looked quite lovely in a velvet gown of this shade. It was made very simply. The skirt, just touching the ground, was bell-shaped, wide round the foot, with slight fullness at the waist. The trim was a thick cascade of heliotrope silk, a shade lighter than the velvet; the lace cut bodice, with short waist, had soft folds of velvet crossing in front; the skirt sleeves were one full puff of velvet; a sash of soft silk to match the ruche went round the waist and fastened at the left side in a large rosette. The dress was almost severe in its simplicity, but most becoming.

All kinds of dressy accessories for morning and evening gowns are the rage at present. Long hobs and chignon fronts, and fichus, quaint looking buckles, made sashes of folded silk, and a hundred and one other pretty things that had I space I might mention. A charming arrangement of chiffon to wear over a tight-fitting, round-waisted bodice in the afternoon has a broad black pleated drape centre, with frills of emerald red chiffon at each side; the high neck band is covered with chiffon, finally gathered, the embroidered edge forming a fringe round the neck; an empire belt of folded chiffon goes with this front.

Another pretty arrangement for an evening gown was a fichu of cream lace and deep frills gathered very full on to folds of cream muslin, fastening in front with a ribbon bow. Any of these trappings would make charming Christmas gifts, many of them are quite inexpensive. By the way, the Christmas number of that delightful paper, the "Gentlewoman," gives not only a long list of these pretty things, but most conveniently gives their shop prices as well.

Black and green, as I think I have already told you, is enormously worn this winter. I quite fell in love the other day with a dress of black diagonal serge trimmed with a lovely shade of myrtle green velvet. The gown was cut on princess and mounted on a deep square yoke of green velvet, the yoke being cut in one with a high stand-up collar; this special princess cut widened considerably at the foot and was cased on the inside with horse hair crinoline to make it set outwards, the foot trimming being two bands of velvet edged at each side with narrow black fur, the same trimming went round the top of the high collar, the edges of the yoke were also defined with fur, and the sleeves of black serge came in

one large puff as far as the elbows, where they were gathered into long plain cuffs of green velvet. This gown looked amazingly well worn by a pretty blonde.

No wonder that capes are so popular this winter, for the larger our sleeves grow the more impossible it becomes to put on a coat or jacket over them. However, to those who prefer the fashionable jacket to the equally fashionable cape, the indefatigable blouse comes to the rescue; it has become an absolute necessity, if an out-door jacket is worn, to have a blouse to wear with each gown as well as its regular bodice, the latter being used for wearing in the door. A soft flannel blouse is the best for wearing under a coat or jacket as it will bear crushing; the colour should be carefully chosen to go well with the skirt, as when visiting; if the room is warm one is so often asked to open the jacket, and unless the blouse harmonises well with the dress, the effect is far from pleasing.

A girl I know who is a very smart dresser, called on me the other day; her gown was a dark brown tweed, with just a dash of red through it. The skirt was a round shape, slightly gathered at the waist. It cleared the ground, and was trimmed at the foot with seven rows of dark brown braid in graduated widths. Over this gown she wore a fashionable long jacket of light brown cloth. It was semi-fitting, with a deep shoulder frill pleated so as to stand out in the regulation way. The frill was trimmed with a narrow border of brown fur.

Her hat was of the same cloth as the jacket, a small, round shape trimmed with a narrow band of fur round the brim, and wing bows of dark brown velvet. On coming into the room she opened her jacket to reveal a warm, and revealed a pale, full-gathered blouse of dark and flannel confined at the waist by a brown leather belt. It went perfectly with her gown, matching the dash of red in the tweed, and with the brown surroundings had a bewitchingly robin-red-breast effect.

## MR. WHEELER.

Great efforts are being made to render the National Cycling Show at the Crystal Palace an even more brilliant success than the late Stanley Show. From what comes to me, I make no doubt that it will be a fine exhibition, all the makers engaged being thoroughly in earnest in their ambition to make it sui generis. We are promised, too, some "startling novelties" of the usual impracticable sort, to impart freshness to the display. There is a danger, however, in the perfecting of a safety which can be doubled up and carried about in the pocket has not, I regret to say, got forward enough to put in an appearance.

The Rudge dividend tells its own tale about the condition of the cycling trade. It is only at the rate of 7½ per cent., whereas last year's dividend for the same portion of the year was at the rate of 30 per cent. Out of putting it in its own pocket, the company paid 15 per cent. on its shares in 1891, whereas it has only been able to pay 8½ per cent. in 1892. If, then, this great and prosperous concern, with its large resources and extensive connections, has suffered such diminution of business, it stands to reason that many of the smaller makers must be squeezed almost to the breaking point.

By the way, talking of Rudge reminds me that a friend who owns one of the famous quadricycles made by that company, speaks in the warmest terms of its capabilities, whether for comfort, stability, or ease of propulsion. He promises to let me try his machine next spring in the hope of removing the impression to which I gave expression some time back that there is no compensation in the additional wheel to make up for the extra weight. That was a purely theoretical judgment, as I have never been stridden a four-wheeler.

The first Cinderella dance of the popular West Roads Club at Ledbrooke Hall was an altogether pleasant festivity. There was plenty of partners for all, capital music, and a perfect floor. Not often have I seen so many pretty girls present in a ball-room; I must have lost my heart at least a score of times during the evening. Fortunately, the cycling heart is a revolving sort of thing, which generally comes back to the point from which it started.

Small by degrees, and beautifully less, is the number of wheelmen on the road as winter advances. What has become of those gallant spirits who used to swear by all their gods that, for genuine enjoyment, there was nothing like winter cycling? They have grown wiser as well as older, apparently; at all events, they are no longer visible. I do not blame them. Most of the roads outside London are simply execrable just now, what between the repairs, mud, and the disintegration of the surface by snags of frost. Only on three occasions lately have I ventured forth, and on each occasion my afterthought was, "There are no fools like old fools."

A kind-hearted gentleman with whom I have some slight acquaintance has started a cycling club for young working lads, as part of the parish organisation. It has the entire approval of the vicar, an enlightened cleric who has sense to recognise the moral influence of cycling, and on Sunday afternoons the promoter and his young friends wheel away to the country. The monetary part of the affair is so arranged that members who wish to purchase machines, have not the where withal, pay in instalments through the club, while those who are content to hire do so on more advantageous terms. It seems to be an excellent idea, but initiators must be prepared to sacrifice a small amount of time and trouble; perhaps, even some loose cash on excursions.

The building of a new racing yacht for the Prince of Wales does not much look as if he were about to addit himself to wheeling. Of course, he might go in for both pastimes, in addition to racing and shooting. That he would be all the better in health for regular cycling admits of no question whatever. I know a man, just about his royal highness's age and of the same build, whose life was intermittently rendered miserable by attacks of gout. In a good hour, a friend who had been similarly afflicted recommended cycling as a remedy, and the once forlorn gentleman is now as jolly as sand and not a trace of the megrim which used to render life not worth living.

Very frequently, almost every week, indeed, am I invited to name "the best tyre," without being enlightened as to what purpose it will be put to, or whether the writer attaches more importance to speed or to security from puncture. The "Ideal Cyclist," which has been worried into similar queries, sums up the matter in such an exhaustive way that I cannot do better than quote its deliverance: "Those who place speed first will have none of the anti-puncture devices. Those who are less anxious to go fast, and more anxious to enjoy perfect peace of mind at the cost of some loss of physical comfort, will elect to have protectors."

The novice should not assume, however, that the loss either of speed or of physical comfort through using non-puncturing pneumatics is of any serious moment. Indeed, the difference is so slight in most respects as to be only appreciable by connoisseurs, whereas on the other hand, the youngest

of young hands cannot fail to feel the embarrassment caused by a lapsed tyre, especially on tour. It is my own part, unhesitatingly give the preference to self-healing tyres, such as the Silvertown, for all ordinary purposes.

It is good news for cyclists that the British East Africa Company purposes to go to Brazil for the cultivation of india-rubber trees, the consignments already to hand in England, and are no limits to the quantity that could be produced. Here, then, there is a great store of rubber continually increasing, and its unceasing application to fresh uses, the supply is so inadequate that consumers often have to make the best of inferior grades.

## CRUELTY TO A HORSE.

A CONTRACTOR SENT TO PRISON. Henry Stubbs, a contractor, of Romford street, Lambeth, was taken to the Guildhall with horse cruelty to a horse, and sentenced to be worked whilst lame. It was previously convicted and fined the full penalty for cruelty to horses. Mr. Stubbs said it was a very bad case. Anybody with eyes in their head could see that the animal was unfit for work. He should be sent to the prison for one month with hard labour. (Applause.) In court, and one of the defendants, Stubbs said he should appeal against the decision.

## A TRAIN BLOWN UP.

News received from the Raut (one) show that an accident has already occurred on the line of railway now being constructed, upon which nine lives were lost. It seems from the advice received that a train had left Matadi, where the line commences, going to Mampemba. There was a quantity of gun powder in the wagons, and it is said that the train was proceeding the spark from the engine alighted on the gunpowder, igniting the same and causing a terrific explosion. The train itself was wrecked and nine persons killed, the victims including several whites. The names are not given.

## SALE OF MILLBANK PRISON.

The first portion of the materials of Millbank Prison was sold by auction, by Mr. Everfield, of the firm of Horne, Son, and Everfield. The auction drew together a large number of "house-breakers." The prison wall encloses sixteen acres of ground, and the buildings are constructed in the form of a wheel, the governor's house forming the axle, while six spokes radiating therefrom contain the cells in which the prisoners were detained. The sale of the prison was on Wednesday, and passed in and out of the sheds which were marked out for sale. Nine acres were devoted to airing-grounds or gardens. On Wednesday only very small bits of ground showed any sign of cultivation, and here were growing celery and cabbages. The laundry, blacksmith's shop, photographic shed, and other places were partially dismantled, the best portions having been removed to Wormwood Scrubs. The chapel was a very large circular building, in which the prisoners sat upon forms, and there were no screens. On the west side the graveyard, eighty yards long by thirteen yards deep. This was raised off, and contained a few ash trees. Mr. Everfield, who conducted the auction, stood upon the top of the leading to the chapel, not far from the governor's house. There were about 300 men present when he began the auction shortly before 11. He read over the conditions of sale, and called special attention to the last, which provided that the wage paid for demolishing the prison was not to be less than 6½d. an hour. This condition he called repeated attention to, and twice there were shouts raised that better wages than that were already paid by those present to their men. The sales began with the slates on the roofs of laundry in No. 1 Pentagon, the total realised by the fifty lots being £630. About half-past 1 o'clock he made his appearance, having led a band of men from Lower Hill. He spoke to several of the buyers, who told him they had men of their own waiting work, who would be set upon the jobs. The next sale, which included the Pentagon Prison, will take place on January.

The Lord Chancellor has added seven magistrates to the roll of Coventry city, one being a working man engaged in the cycling trade, and in the employ of the mayor, who is also among the new magistrates.

DO YOU WANT A BICYCLE? CYCLEDOM. LONDON. 25, MARK LANE. Special Clearance Sale. 100 cycles from 10s. to 50s. per month. Last post free. Address: 25, Mark Lane, London, E.C. 3.

## THE IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE.

THE EARNEST ATTENTION OF LADIES IS CALLED TO THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT AND SOLICITED TESTIMONIALS RESPECTING THE TREATMENT OF ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE FEMALE SYSTEM BY THE MARKEDLY EFFECTIVE AND PAINLESSLY OPERATING IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE.

MRS. W. OF BOSTON, WRITES:—"To poor folks like ourselves, who have no money, it is a great relief to find a medicine that will cure us without cost."

ITS WORTH TWENTY TIMES ITS PRICE. On the one strong bottle I had more good than all the pills and medicines I had taken before for the previous twelve weeks."

A GUARANTEE—SWORN ON OATH. A GUARANTEE—SWORN ON OATH. EVERY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONIALS IS A GUARANTEE—SWORN ON OATH. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy.

"Dear Madam, I feel it my duty to tell you that I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy."

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"Dear Madam, I feel it my duty to tell you that I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDICINE, and I can testify to its efficacy. I have used IRRISTUM FEMALE MEDIC



Chemists will procure it. Wholesale of all London  
The Blood Tonic in Bottles, 1s 1pl. 2s 6d. 4s 6d.,  
The Cream in Boxes, 1s 1pl. and 2s 6d. The Oint-  
ment, 1s. 1pl. and 2s 6d. SMITH and CO., CHE-  
MISTS, TAUNTON.







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**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**  
London to the West of  
England, the Somerset  
(W), Weymouth, Dor-  
set, is secured by all trains  
to return up to and  
from JERSEY on 22nd,  
23rd, available by any

...leave Waterloo  
...the WEST  
...train from Waterloo  
...le, if necessary, to  
...also to Sidmouth.  
...A SPECIAL LATE  
...Kensington, 8.5 p.m.  
...ations for EXETER,  
...LYMOUTH, South and  
...will be issued by the  
...sterling will convey pas-  
...and West

Trains will leave  
at intermediate stations  
at 11.45 a.m.  
from Waterloo.

at Crewkerne, Chard  
on, Romton, Midhurst  
HAMPTON, FORT-  
Ponter, Komes, Salisbury,  
on, Yarmouth, Be Al-  
for Barnstoke, Win-  
and Bournewood.

ment, especially in the  
of the Buildings, Char-  
ing, Arthur-street West,  
Street, City. Dan Horne  
ANDRILLIS can also be  
by post from the office  
P. R. General Manager.

to or Eight Days, and on  
even Days to Newmarket,  
Dunrobin, Kilmarnock,  
Kilmarnock, Glasgow,  
Montrose, Aberdeen, Ar-  
gyle, Town 20, Victoria  
2, Aldergate, a new 50  
N TICKETS at a single  
will be issued by the  
liable for return within  
days of issue and return  
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West London Ferry, 40 (via  
Bus), at 12.25 p.m. Kenton  
Road, Alderley Street 126  
(Met.), 12.10  
to London Marylebone  
a.m. For dates of return  
to the Midland stations and  
West Strand, 2, Cannon  
Street, 1, Shaftesbury  
Road, 40, Cannon  
Street, 40, Cannon  
Street, 40, Cannon

Circus, 99, Gracchuren-  
street; and front of St.  
NER, General Manager.

**DOYLE RAILWAY.-**  
1892. - CHRISTMAN  
1st, 2nd, 3rd class.  
Victoria 12.0 midnight.

will leave Victoria and

other special facilities, see  
company's Stations, or Post  
Victoria Station, S.W.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS** —  
24th, 25th, 27th, and 28th  
of the principal Trans

**SPECIAL TRAINS** will

Yarmouth and Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Diss, Woodbridge, Halesworth, Bideford, and stations to Southend-on-Sea.

Norwich, Lowestoft, and at 12.15 night, to Bury, North Ipswich, calling at the

**S DAY.**  
Suffolk, Witham, Marks, Ipswich.

connection with trains to  
ten, Sudbury, Newmarket,  
Borough, Wisbech, Milton-  
ham, Dereham, Thetford,  
s Toy, Sudbury, Bury, Col-  
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east, Yarmouth, &  
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BIET, General Manager.  
N RAILWAY  
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HEATER,  
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SLLINGTON,

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 site and the People's Palace',  
 ILLENDEN JUNCTION.  
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History Museums, with a train  
station with the  
PALACE.  
Hour

... and Hampton Court.  
Trains  
from  
PARK,  
Wood Green, New Barnet,  
and Enfield.  
ELLAND NEWTON,  
General Manager.

**Y ASSOCIATION.**

DAY, December 21st, at the  
Hotel, Ball-yard, Fleet-street.  
Greenhill, Esq., will read an  
address on "The Methods of  
Improvement."—Thomas &  
Co., Chancery-lane, W.C.

**MILITAIR. TRAVELLERS**  
singing to Everybody.  
-COMPASS (Patent),  
with the greatest precision, the  
PATENT has covered (in yards)  
England, size of a watch.  
-P. A. TOANNOI, Watch  
(Switzerland).

**Y'S" EXTRACT**  
**EEF.**  
**TRACT OF BEEF.**  
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EXTRACT OF BEEF.  
Genuine Extract bears Justus  
measure in blue ink across label.

RESPONSIBLE FOR LADIES)  
to  
GREAT COMPANY (Limited).  
AVENUE, E.C.







**City of London Court.**

that they were under notice to leave, had made up their minds to take anything they could lay their hands upon.—Det. Davis said he saw the collector go to said shop, advised Hodgkins to return things. She (Colman) stole a piece of bat, being frightened, she returned it.—prosecutor estimated the value of the perty found at £50.—Remanded.

**ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD**  
Robert Silas CHANNING, described as a waiter, was charged with conspiracy to defraud, named Francis Sanson and Charles Lunn, both under remand, in fraudulently obtaining money from members of the Provisional Association of London.—Mary Ann Drucornie, handler, of Prince's-road, Notting, said on Tuesday the prisoner Channing came to her shop and asked for the insurance money. She said, "I don't know whether coming." He replied that he had been sent to deal with all before. She said to do so by her nephew, Jonas Henry

**South-Western.**

THE CLERKMAN'S WIFE and the BUSBOY GEORGE HARRIS, of Washington, are charged with stealing two coats, a dressing-gown, other articles, the property of the late John Parr, a schoolmaster, of Parkville, Batessee.—Mrs. Parr said that on Friday afternoon she was in the dining-room, heard footsteps in the room above, and opened the dining-room door, and saw a man in a dark suit, with a pocket watch chain full of clothes. He immediately ran out of house. Witness followed him until she became exhausted, and then sent an errand after the prisoner, who was eventually stopped by a constable.—The accused told the magistrate that he walked into the house door being open. He did not see a "face" in the dining-room, but he admitted the intention of stealing them. (Laughter.) He had had nothing to eat, and was out of playment, but stated that he would wait

used in making two jam "turnovers," were eaten by the father and six children. On Monday the little boy Joseph returned from the hospital, claiming that he had been sick. At dinner time, Beatrice, who was with vomiting, and on Tuesday Dr. Harlow was called in, but the children sank and the boy on Tuesday night, and the girl on Wednesday night. The father had felt ill and had suffered from diarrhoea, and an older daughter had been slightly affected. Dr. Harlow was of opinion that the boy's death was caused by an irritant poison, but what he was unable to trace. Mrs. Valda Shopkeeper, stated that her own child had taken some of the same jam and had not experienced any ill effect. Dr. Smith, Christopher-street, Finsbury-square, stated that he had made a microscopic examination of the girl's body and found there was nothing in the appearance to suggest irritant poisoning. He was of opinion that the child

"God Told Her to Do It."—An incident was held on the body of Rebecca Oakes, wife of a beer retailer, 18, Crouch End, London, N. The deceased's husband had been suffering from debility and melancholia. She had given way to drink, and her appearance to be affected. On Monday she was excited, and witness called in a doctor, subsequently she became quiet and rational. Witness saw her safely in bed about 11 p.m. on Monday night, and she left the room at 12.30. In the night she was in the middle of the bed, few minutes afterwards, on coming upstairs, he found his wife strangled in the room with her hand pressed in her throat. She exclaimed, "Oh! Will, save me," also said "God told me to do it," and from this he judged that she had perhaps ignited her clothing with a candle that was alight at her feet. The witness was called in not before her body was extremely hot and severely injured.

which the Appointments of the Duke of  
president was confirmed, and the  
number of influential vice-presidents.  
Dinner in the evening, presided over  
Hughes Fisher, M.P., the vice-chair was  
Dr. Cunningham, of Cambridge.  
suitable weather, a successful season was  
anticipated.

## THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

**MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE**  
ALLOWED TO ADVERTISE for business pur-  
poses to insert circulars to persons other than the  
participants.

Brokers or Agents who advertise are not, in any  
manner, with the Stock Exchange, or under the control  
Committee.

List of Members of the Stock Exchange who are  
and Share Members may be obtained on application to  
the Secretary to the Committee.

FRANCIS LEVY,  
Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Ex-  
change, 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

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Mr. Henry Reichardt, proprietor, publisher, and editor of "Pick-Me-Up"

case there is the element of uncertainty both as to whether the company would get anything, and as to the number of competitors amongst whom the proceeds would have to be divided.—Mr. Poland said that was quite true in this case, he submitted, differed from those cases with which he was familiar in which it had been held that the lottery.—Sir J. Bridge said that if the chances which the learned counsel had advanced were schemes of chance, then they could not be treated as contracts.

lottery as a scheme for the distribution of prizes by chance.—Mr. Poland submitted

to press before the decision was given Thursday afternoon Mr. Pearson received reply from the City Solicitor, stating any competition money in hand not be sent out, and the

**SPRANKMAN'S SEASONS AND FANCY WEAVING** (only) for all Seasons of the Year. The Royal Navy Uniforms, Colours, Chas. and Mixtures; Strong, Useful, Dr. Ladies' Wear, from 1s. 5d. the yard; for Gentlemen from 1s. 11d. the yard. On receipt of instructions will be sent post free. N.B.—Any length cut and paid to practical questions, or by pattern post, in the Kingdom. Only address, no agents, write direct to **MAN and SPRANKMAN, Fifeburgh.—(Advs.)**

A hope of assistance being apparently to the crew clinging to the wreck as last could until the morning of the 9th, when the water moderating, the remaining boat was patched up and launched. The captain was to be assisted into the boat, but he died 10 hours afterwards. It took six hours' rowing to reach Kentish Knock Light, two men having been kept bailing water the time. The crew were so completely exhausted that they could not have gone much further than the lights.—A vessel was returned of accidental death, a rider commenting on the inaction of those

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A LIFEGUARDSDMAN.**  
Trooper Ross, of the 1st Life Guard Squadron, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat while at breakfast with several other men. Ross made two slashes across his throat and fell upon the floor unconscious, blood flowing from the wounds. He was taken to the hospital, where he has a critical state. It is believed that the had become deranged, for earlier in the morning he asked a comrade for a ball cartridge.

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There is not much to comment upon in football. At Leyton, the Crusaders, after

**Draw-**  
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**English**  
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**Art.**

int. England, genuine sufferers will receive  
free of charge. Sole address—JOS. H. B. B.  
10 Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury,  
Mention this paper.—Advt.

Michael Berry, a homeless costumed to three months' hard Marlborough-street Police Court stolen a gold enamel scarf pin, worn Ralph Lees, a bank broker, Euston square, and also at Cw. The theft occurred in the Avenue on Wednesday night.

"There is a QUESTIONABLE" no better world for all our and largest trouble. Lovers, say, medical men and nurses. Briefed to specify they contain no strong simple drugs, the most delicate can take it were in last time. -ADVICE.

Awards out of the Hospital Saturday have been made to hospitals, convalescent homes, and other institutions to the amount of £17,000.

"KAT'S COMPOUND CREAM" of Lillie's is a really excellent skin cream, and is sold in all the big stores and chemists. It is a really excellent skin cream, and is sold in all the big stores and chemists.

GIRL ALMANACK, Second Edition, with Twelve  
 by Specialists, including eight Champions  
 and show points, of Dogs, Pigeons, and old  
 Fowls, post free for Two Penny Stamps to  
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 's PATENT, Limited, Hammersley, London.-Ad

but should be exceedingly useful and profitable. The articles on Dressmaking, including a Pattern of HOODS, Home Decorations, Toilets, and Answers to subjects makes it a fitting companion for wives and All Newsagents: weekly 1d., by post 2 stamps. WILEY & SONS, Court-st., Fleet-st., London, E.C.

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LOZENGES are medicinal  
Relief is speedy: they contain no strong  
simple drugs. the most delicate can take it  
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Is composed of Steel, Pennyroyal, Bitter Apple,

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DAME SELBOURNE,  
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6.9 and 10.0 p.m.  
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